

# CALIFORNIA

## RURAL COUNTIES TASK FORCE

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### AGENDA

March 19, 2004

12:30 pm

Room 2116

Caltrans HQ – 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA

12:30	A	Self Introductions	
12:35	B	Approve minutes of Jan. 16	all
12:40	C	Transit Updates – RTAP	P. Spaulding
		□ 5311 Program	P. Couch
		□ Legislation	L. Wilcox
12:50	D	TDA Working Committee – report	D. Landon
			J. Jelich
			J. Smith
1:00	E	Air Quality Conformity	S. Maas, M. Pitto
1:10	F	Aeronautics – CASP System Requirements	G. Rickelton
1:15	G	Legislation	TBD
1:30	H	511 Traveler Info	B. De Terra
1:35	I	PPM Funding	
1:40	J	2004 STIP, State Budget	D. Brewer
			S. Maller
1:55	K	RCTF Fall Conference with CalACT	K. Mathews,
			G. Dondero
2:05	L	CTC Commissioners	G. Dondero
2:15	M	Project Delivery Workshop – May 21	C. Field
2:20	N	Ca. Performance Review	G. Dondero
2:25	O	RCTF Issues and Objectives	Various
		Other	
3:00		Adjourn	

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**TO: TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

**FR: George Dondero, Chair**

**RE: AGENDA NOTES FOR March 19, 2004**

- B. **Approval of Minutes.** Thanks to Jeff Schwein for documenting the discussion items of last meeting in January, and thanks to those who send in corrections.
- C. **Transit Issues-RTAP.** Pete Spaulding will report on recent CalACT activities. Pam Couch will report on recent activities of the 5311 Advisory committee and Lee Wilcox will provide an update on recent transit related legislation.
- D. **TDA Working Committee.** Dan Landon and John Jelichich will report on the first meeting of this committee. Thanks to Jake Smith for providing the attached meeting notes. Note that this committee has agreed to meeting monthly. If you have any TDA concerns or issues that you would like to see raised contact Dan or John.
- E. **Air Quality Conformity.** Scott Moss, Consultant and Mary Pitto, RCRC will report on recent developments regarding the Mountain Counties efforts to retain their separate identity for Air Basin definition under the Clean Air Act. There have been several recent meetings with the EPA and California Air Resources Board and representatives of the Mountain Counties Air Districts and Transportation Commissions in this joint effort.
- F. **Aeronautics**
- G. **Legislation**
- H. **511 Traveler Info – Bruce DeTerra** will report on recent developments of the Traveler Information Network being implemented statewide.
- I. **PPM Funding.** By now all counties should be aware that the CTC allocated funds for PPM for the current year at their February meeting. See the attached spreadsheet for the amount that your county received. This was sent out previously via e-mail but some of you may have missed it. This was a very successful effort worked on jointly between the Task Force and the RTPA Group and the CTC. Many thanks to all who supported this effort and especially Celia McAdam for an excellent presentation to the CTC in January.
- J. **2004 STIP and State Budget Issues.** David Brewer and Steven Maller of CTC Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the 2004 STIP or recent budget developments.

- K. **RCTF Fall Conference.** Catherine Mathews will summarize accomplishments of the committee which will convene the morning of March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- L. **CTC Commissioners.** Any rural counties who have qualified candidates for CTC Commissioner may wish to make Task Force members aware of that individual and encourage letters to the Governor in support.
- M. **Project Delivery Workshop – May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Charles Field will coordinate a best practices and project delivery for rural counties the morning of the May 21<sup>st</sup> Task Force meeting in Sacramento. Charles will describe basic content of that session.
- N. **California Performance Review (CPR).** The separate was initiated by the Governor in an effort to gather information on how intergovernmental relations may improve between the various State agencies. I have already participated in one telephone interview to provide information for this effort. If you have any issues you would like to see included, please bring them to the Task Force meeting for discussion.
- O. **RCTF Issues and Objectives.**

**Rural Counties Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
For  
**January 16, 2004**

The secretary position was filled by Jeff Schwein from Tehama County Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

**TDA Advisory Committee**

The TDA Advisory Committee membership list was released by the Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation at this January meeting. At the November meeting, it was suggested that the committee consist of 3 representatives from RTPA's, MPO's, and LTC's. The rural agencies suggested to the Gordon Arruda (Division of Mass Transportation) that 3 was not enough representation for this sort of a committee and 5 representatives would be better. Mr. Arruda came to the January meeting with a list of proposed members of the TDA Advisory Committee. Out of the November suggested rural representatives, one was chosen for the committee (Dan Landon/Nevada Co. Transportation Commission). The group agreed that Dan was a good choice but also suggested that there was no true rural area representation. Celia McAdam suggested that without rural representation from areas that are making decisions regarding TDA administration, the effectiveness of the committee suffers. Pete Spaulding (CalAct) offered to give up their position on the committee to allow rural representation. There are currently ten rural counties that have been recognized by the State as having truly different needs and have been designated as "frontier" counties (Mary Pitto/RCRC). Gordon Arruda asked for a list of the "frontier" counties and said he'll take it back to Jake Smith for discussion and that the Rural Counties group is encouraging better representation. A woman in the back of the room spoke up and said that adding one name (John Jelich) to the committee was no problem, and John would be added to the list. The first Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Gateway Oaks District 3 office and will discuss a charter and membership as well as other items. The meeting can be teleconferenced if desired.

**Protected Greyhound Bus Routes**

Greyhound initiated SB 804 and it slipped under the radar and was passed in an effort to protect its bus routes from other passenger carriers. The Lodi transit center is having problems providing service to riders who have not purchased a "rail" ticket.

**Air Basins/Air Quality Conformity**

Mike Woodman from Nevada County RTPA brought a concern to the group regarding recent EPA designations for 8 hour ozone standards. The issue is transported pollution from metropolitan areas is creating a conformity problem for some rural regions. Other areas will most likely be dealing with pollution transport in the future and should act now in order for regulatory agencies to understand the affects of these designations. Nevada County has sent an opposing letter regarding the EPA designation to the EPA, CARB, and political leaders. Rural areas who are currently affected by the designations or predict a similar situation in the future should respond to the EPA and local representative politicians by February 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Diesel Fleet Retrofitting Mandates**

Tuolumne County brought up concerns about the Air Resources Board objective of requiring public diesel vehicles to be retrofitted but offering no financing suggestions. The implementation schedule is currently requiring public agencies to retrofit 50% of their vehicles, newer than 1988 by December 21, 2005. The Air Resources Board has estimated costs between \$3000 and \$12,000, but failed to include retrofitting of older vehicles. The older vehicles will likely require complete engine replacement. It is anticipated that the next step is to require the private sector vehicle contractors to comply and eventually require off-road vehicles to comply as well. It was suggested that there be some kind of measurement or exemption based on the hours of usage for certain vehicles like snowplows and other seasonal equipment. There are many organizations paying attention to this issue including, the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the League of California Cities, and many other special districts and associations.

## **Master Fund Transfer Agreements, OWP, and RPA Funding**

Sharon Scherzinger presented information regarding recent audits of rural agencies. It appears that agreements with local assistance have not been thorough enough. There are a few questions still to be answered, so don't go to your Board's yet, and if you have, just hang onto the agreement. Gerry LeFrancois mentioned that their regions legal council would like to get together with other legal councils for discussions regarding this issue.

## **State Budget**

The current State Budget proposal secures \$4 million in Rural Planning Assistance funds, so keep an eye on it.

CTC Staff was told to continue with the 2004 RTIP process based on the current Fund Estimate. There may be reason to amend it in the future, but it is all we have to proceed with right now.

Other issues:

- TCRP will be discontinued Feb 1, 2004
- We need to protect 75/25 split

## **Cash Management Concept**

Terry Abbott-There is a proposal to manage State cash and free up \$800 million to pay off bonds through the General Fund. The Department would use Obligation Authority for Local Assistance and apply it to State Projects where the State has done the work and paid the bill. This would allow them to immediately pay FHWA and put cash into the State Highway Account.

RSTP funds will continue to be exchanged.

Advanced Construction (AC) may be used for local projects in an effort to proceed through the department. Then, it will be converted back to a Federal project and the Department will get paid back. This will eliminate local involvement because they've already been paid.

There are still some unresolved issues, but the program will continue to operate and projects will continue to move forward. There will be no effect on HBRR or other programs.

## **Letter to Legislators**

Amador County has sent a letter to their legislative representatives in an effort to raise awareness regarding transportation funding issues and the suspension of proposition 42 transfers. It is encouraged that others follow suit.

## **PPM Funding Presentation**

Celia McAdam presented a proposal for the CTC regarding Planning, Programming and Monitoring funding. The proposal suggested a partial allocation of PPM money for regional agencies in dire need of funding. Funding not needed at this time will be postponed via AB 3090 or reprogrammed in the STIP.

## **2004 STIP**

All projects should be included in the STIP except voted projects. If a Caltrans project is deleted from a regions STIP, the County share can be reprogrammed as a new project.

TE projects are requested to come forward and they are eligible for funding immediately. If regions program TE projects as a lump sum, it will be programmed as a TE reserve and will be required to meet timely use of funds regulations. If the project is programmed in the outer years, there is a good possibility that it can be moved up.

The Commission will put together a task force for the minimum project size STIP guideline proposed change. Rural Agencies do not need to put together an independent task force.

## **Annual Report to the CTC**

This years report is shorter than usual and will only go to the Commission and not the Legislature as usual. It was suggested that comments be sent to bring attention to the unstable funding issues as well as the importance of local road maintenance and rehabilitation.

## **Project Delivery**

There is a workshop being scheduled as a follow up to the past project delivery workshops. Date to be determined for some time in May.

## The Transportation Development Act (TDA) Working Committee

### *Meeting Notes*

February 2, 2004

Sacramento, CA

#### **Meeting Opening:**

Jake Smith, TDA Branch Chief, welcomed the committee, which included 4 members video conferencing.

Debbie Mah, Chief, Division of Mass Transportation and Team Sponsor, provided an opening statement on State perspectives and expectations for the committee. Key items included:

The committee serves as a partnership between the State and our regional partners and customers. It is intended that TDA issues and concerns can be freely discussed in an open environment by committee members, and recommendations be developed on changes or improvements to TDA regulations, policies, procedures, and communication.

Due to the diverse backgrounds of committee members, there will be many opportunities to exchange viewpoints and experiences with TDA and other transit issues. There may be recommendations made that not only benefit TDA, but other transit programs as well, and the appropriate representatives will be included in discussions when necessary.

The State assists the regions by providing guidance on TDA statutes, apprises of statutory changes, ensures a public participation process where required, and is informed that performance audits are being conducted. We have received some positive feedback that the newly assembled TDA team is doing a good job with requests for assistance.

The committee has the full support of the Department of Transportation. Headquarters TDA personnel will serve as facilitators, staff for the committee members, and arrange for meeting facilities and communication tools. There will be a major emphasis on keeping committee members informed, and providing assistance when needed.

The purpose and responsibilities of the committee have been discussed with partner groups such as the Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) Group. Partner groups played a role in selecting committee members.

Gale McIntyre, Chief, Office of State and Federal Grants and Team Coordinator, spoke on the historical elements and committee responsibilities. Key items included:

The Caltrans, HQ TDA staff is fairly new and learning the technical aspects of the program. This could be an advantage, as issues and concerns can be addressed openly by committee members, and looked at objectively by State staff.

Historically, TDA has had formal committees and informal round tables in past years. They have been very successful in improving communication and facilitating improvements. Even though committee members may have differing viewpoints, all share the common goal of ensuring TDA remains an important transportation funding program.

#### **Committee Format:**

Nicole Bennett, from the HQ TDA Branch and committee facilitator, reviewed the committee format and etiquette with committee members. Format was approved as suggested.

### **Draft Committee Charter:**

Gordon Arruda, from the HQ TDA Branch and committee facilitator, reviewed the draft charter with team members. Specific concerns were expressed by the committee as follows:

- The term "consensus" to be removed from the charter mission statement
- There needs to be a plan for "topic resolution", or decision making.
- Should committee have a period of tenure and be replaced by a new person?
- Meetings at least initially should be more than once a year
- Committee members should provide alternates if they're unable to attend meetings.
- Does there need to be a committee chair and/or co-chair?
- Committee expressed concern over "advisory" committee name, favored incorporating "working" into title.

A revised draft charter will be prepared and submitted to the committee for approval at the next TDA Committee Meeting.

### **Topics for Discussion:**

Gordon Arruda went over the "topics for discussion" items with committee members. There were many comments and exchanges of viewpoints between the team. It was decided that more time was needed to identify new topics and prioritize those most important to the team. It was agreed that prior to the next meeting, the team would indicate their top four priorities for discussion.

There was a request made by committee members that staff provide information on two discussion items:

- State Commission on Aging Website: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/SB910.html>
  - A report, entitled **"The State's Role in Public Transportation"**.
- Staff is conducting research on this and will report to the committee at a future date.

Nicole Bennett will collect new topics for discussion and work with committee members to prioritize them. A list of the existing topics for discussion will accompany this e-mail.

### **Miscellaneous:**

The committee agreed to hold meetings at least once a month, initially.

The team liked the meeting facility, and staff will attempt to secure the same location for future meetings. A notice will accompany these notes on meeting location, date, and time. Staff will work to improve the videoconference connections for the next meeting, and apologized for problems incurred at this one.

Committee agreed that a chair and/or co-chair would not be necessary if Caltrans agreed to continue facilitation. TDA staff will continue to serve in any capacity needed to assist committee members.

Jake Smith talked about the importance of committee members responding to assignments when requested. The collection and prioritization of the topics, and time for committee members to review prior to discussion will be critical to the success of the next meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- **Revise Charter** (have by next meeting-date)



- **List of 4 prioritized topics** for discussion
- **Send out meeting notes**, update committee member information, and solicit topics for discussion (date TBD, We're looking at the end of March)
- **Analyze "State's Role in Public Transportation"** and report to committee by next meeting
- **Improve videoconferencing connections** (by next meeting-date)

- Respectfully Submitted,  
Jake Smith, 02/05/04

**RCTF ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES**  
***Report***

**Issue/Objective**

<b>Rural Transit (FTA 5310, Welfare to Work, CalACT)</b>	<b>Pam Couch, Modoc</b>
<b>City/County/Caltrans/FHWA Coordinating Group</b>	<b>Celia McAdam, Placer</b>
<b>CalCOG Activities</b>	<b>Phil Dow, Lake &amp; Mendocino</b>
<b>Federal Aid Project Streamlining</b>	<b>C. McAdam</b>
<b>TEA-3 Federal Reauthorization</b>	<b>C. McAdam</b>
<b>Transportation for Economic Development Committee</b>	<b>C. McAdam</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Oversight Committee</b>	<b>C. McAdam, G. Dondero</b>
<b>RTP Guidelines</b>	<b>C. Field</b>
<b>ITS Statewide Architecture and system Plan</b>	<b>C. Field</b>
<b>Local Assistance “Enhanced Training Committee”</b>	<b>Spencer Clifton, Humboldt</b>
<b>Annual RCTF Conference w/CalACT</b>	<b>K. Mathews, D. Landon, G. Dondero</b>